

*WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, May 24, 2017, to meet the Citizens Animal Response Team (CART).*

*Mayor Pro Tem Davis started the meeting at 8:32 pm. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center.*

*PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Pro Tem Judith F. Davis. Mayor Emmett V. Jordan was away on business and was unable to attend.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, City Manager; Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Administrative Assistant.*

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: Kris White, Laura Kressler, Ronnie Mitchell, Charlene Backstrom, Ellen Weiss, Pam Lambert and Vivian Cooper, Citizens Animal Response Team (CART) members; Kathleen Gallagher, Greenbelt News Review; and Bill Orleans.*

*Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked Ms. Laura Kressler to give a brief summary of the CART. Ms. Kressler reported that the team has expanded its members from five to 14. They have started working on their Standard Operating Procedures but have not completed them. They have finished their grant paperwork but it has not been sent in. They have been in contact with donors and had events in Berwyn Heights and in Clinton.*

*Mr. Putens asked how many members are on the board and how many board members do they need to call a meeting. Ms. Kressler answered there are currently five people on the board. They only need one person to call a general meeting and three people to call a board meeting.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Ms. Kressler stated the bylaws have not been adopted yet.*

*In response to a question asked by Ms. Mach, Ms. Kressler advised that CART is only setting up a temporary 72 hour shelter for the animals and the 72 hours can be flexible. The goal is for the citizen to get back on their feet or find housing for themselves and their pets. It is also for animals that are roaming around, and when citizens have to flee their homes and are unable to take their pets with them. It becomes a pet rescue if they are left in a disaster area.*

*Ms. Davis asked why the City needs CART. Ms. Kressler stated that the City hasn't had a big disaster, but it could be used in cases of building fires and hoarding of animals. Ms. Pope stated that we shouldn't wait for a big disaster; we should start preparing in advance. Ms. Davis stated the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina were wakeup calls.*

*Mr. Herling asked how CART will get deployed. Ms. Kressler advised CART will be deployed by the City Manager, Chief of Police or Animal Control. She stated she couldn't take it upon herself to deploy the team. Mr. Roberts asked if the team would assist other communities. Ms. Kressler answered yes, if the request comes through the City and if it's a need.*

*Ms. Ard reported that CART will be a part of the City just like the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and its trailer will be located at Public Works. It will be driven by a Public Works employee.*

*Ms. Kressler reported that the citizens are still going to be responsible for taking care of their own pets. This will decrease animal stress and injuries to the workers. Service animals would be in the tent with their owners.*

*Ms. Davis questioned what CART needs from the City. Ms. Kressler requested a minimum of \$1,000 as a contribution towards the \$12,000 required to qualify for the American Kennel Club (AKC) grant to purchase the operations trailer. The trailer would have the City of Greenbelt logo on it as well as other sponsors on the side.*

*Ms. Kressler stated that once an account is established with AKC, all donations and future fundraiser funds would be mailed to that account. Once the goal of \$12,000 is reached, an AKC trailer that is stocked with equipment would become the property of the City.*

*Mr. Putens questioned once the goal is reached what would happen to the additional funds. Ms. Kressler advised the funds would be left in the account to start working towards a second trailer or transferred to another agency to assist them with getting their own trailer.*

*Ms. Craze advised CART is a great team to have because animal control doesn't have enough staff to handle a major fire or major disaster.*

*Mr. Orleans asked and was provided answers to several questions.*

*Informational Items:*

*Several informational items were discussed.*

*The meeting ended at 9:57 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Shaniya Lashley-Mullen  
Administrative Assistant*